

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*For more information, contact Gordon Weixel, 328-5358*

### **Fort Ransom State Park “Sodbuster Days”**

Fort Ransom State Park hosts the annual “Sodbuster Days” extravaganza for the 26<sup>th</sup> time on July 11-12, provide visitors with a glimpse of how early area settlers lived.

For over a quarter of a century Sodbuster Days has been a staple event at Fort Ransom State Park. Over 20 demonstrations are put on Saturday and Sunday including horse powered fieldwork, pedal powered woodworking, butter churning, quilting, and blacksmithing. Events run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Sodbuster Days is made possible through the efforts of the Fort Ransom Sodbuster Association and North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

Live “old-time” music will fill the park’s new music building all weekend with a jam session from 8 to 10 p.m. Saturday. The Fort Ransom Sodbuster Association is making sure the youngsters (preschool to 12 years of age) have plenty to keep them occupied with a full slate of supervised “Kids Events” from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Saturday features a pie auction at 5 p.m. with an “Old Fashioned Simply Country Dinner” at 6 p.m. Tickets for the meal are \$8.50 or \$4 for ages 6 through 12, while anyone under six is admitted free.

Kick Sunday off with breakfast being served from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Pastor Dave Carlson will officiate an interdenominational church service at 9 a.m. at the Farm Site. A parade will be held at 10:30 a.m. and those interested in entering are asked to contact (701) 642-2015. At 2 p.m. a turn of the century style show will take place at the Log Cabin.

Cost to attend Sodbuster Days is \$5/person per day, with children 12 and under admitted free. The regular state park entrance fee will be waived for day use visitors. For those wishing to spend the weekend, the park offers camping with electrical hookups, showers, plenty of picnicking areas and canoe and kayak rentals. The park is located along the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway, 35 miles south of Valley City, 18 miles northwest of Lisbon or two miles north of the town of Fort Ransom. For more information, call the park at (701) 973-4331.